



ANNUAL REPORT 1981

**THE UFO RESEARCH
OF FINLAND**

THE UFO RESEARCH OF FINLAND

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The intended publication date of forthcoming issues is April 15. The publication will be air-mailed to subscribers.

Other publications. - We have the Finnish-language publication Neljännesvuosiraportti (Quarterly Report) to be sent to researcher members, contributing members, The Finnish News Agency and the press. Occasional releases are issued especially to the press.

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THE ANNUAL REPORT 1981 OF THE UFO RESEARCH OF FINLAND

PREFACE

This new-born publication is our second. It is based on the Finnish membership publication called Neljännesvuosiraportti (Quarterly Report) and will be issued only in English. A condensed English translation on the Quarterly Report appeared previously and served as an exchange publication. It will now be replaced by the Annual Report.

We wish to make Finnish events and research more accessible to foreign readers and friends. In the previous translation research details and reports could be dealt with only by way of review and reference. A precise view was difficult to get and this has caused some misunderstandings.

In addition to more detailed analyses, which now will be possible, we shall be giving more or less broad treatments of space-related phenomena which resemble UFOs. These include rocket launches, bolides and halos. We shall also describe the attitude of the press and media to UFOs and UFO research.

We hope that you will respond to us by stating your opinion about the Annual Report and the topics dealt with. You may also request further information on any subject. We also hope that you tell your friends about

this new publication. We will answer any questions if possible. We shall of course publish the questions and answers in due time but there is a natural delay in the Annual Report.

UFOS AND THE PRESS

The Finnish press often writes about UFOs and especially UFO observations. It often gives room to news from international news agencies. Sometimes indeed a Finnish case which remains under the local news threshold gets considerable press coverage on its return from a news agency.

Attempted UFO explanations receive relatively great attention in the press. Atmospheric events, which are based on well-known or rather fantastic natural phenomena, are those most offered. These explanations include reflecting air and dust lenses and various types of luminescence which produce glow in the dark (fluorescence, phosphorescence, chemiluminescence); ball lightnings and plasma in atmosphere or near-space also have their share.

The UFO Research of Finland is monitoring rather closely the press writing on UFOs. The coverage of papers followed is about half of total distribution. In 1981 174 newspaper articles, 50 periodical articles and 8 radio or TV programmes were found which more or less touched on UFOs.

The Quarterly Report (Finnish) of our association has often been the source of the news. As mentioned above, the report is being sent also to the press and the Finnish News Agency.

COLLECTION AND TREATMENT OF FIELD DATA

In order to gather first-hand data the UFO Research of Finland has set up a researcher network which covers the whole country. The membership of about 70 is the basis of the collection network. In addition we have several independent contributors.

Our address has often been mentioned in some periodicals, e.g. Ultra (which covers extra-paradigm areas and alternative life views) and Tähdet ja Avaruus (Stars and Space). In addition, our activities have been described in a few books with instructions for data collecting. We get some 50 reports a year, on an average.

From the reports received we will decide on further measures in each case. The case reports are hereby classed into three groups:

1. Unexplained observations (UFOs as defined). These cases contain detailed information and precise descriptions, so that all natural causes can practically be excluded. Such cases will be studied as thoroughly as possible, sparing no energy and resources.
2. The information remains insufficient despite all attempts to get more details. Thus, the cause of the observation cannot be decided. This is the largest category of cases, unfortunately. In these cases we continue investigations, if possible.
3. Explained observations: the information allows us to pinpoint a natural source for the observation, e.g. astronomical, meteorological and technological phenomena. Sometimes, too, a hoax is disclosed.

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1974

RESUME OF THE OBSERVATIONS AT SUOLIKASJÄRVI IN VIHTI, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1974

Eeva Pekkanen, Merja Riska and Sirpa Vartiainen had left a cottage at Suolikasjärvi in Vihti, to walk to the bus-stop for a further trip to Helsinki. The time of the day was about 7.30-8.00 p.m., the air was clear and the weather was cold about -10...-15° C. When the girls were walking on the icecovered lake Suolikasjärvi, a small lake stretching from northeast to southwest, their attention was caught by an intensive light phenomenon, approaching from the west-northwest direction, behind the trees. The girls first thought it to be an airplane, but as no sound could be heard, they came to the conclusion that the object was a UFO. Frightened the girls saw how the light phenomenon slowly approached them at an even speed. The object had very distinct outlines. There was a dimmed "saucer-section" and a bright dome-section. Eeva Pekkanen also discerned something which suggested a cross in the dome-part. The size of the object was bigger than that of the full-moon. The object was absolutely soundless and no other lights could be seen. A little before the object approached the girls, who, scared as they were, did not dare to look where it disappeared. According to Eeva Pekkanen's estimate, the observation lasted several minutes.

1976

LIGHT PHENOMENON AT VANTAA

Vantaa, February 11, 1976, 5.50 p.m. 2 observers. In the northern sky a light phenomenon resembling a jet plane with one of its engines on fire, came into sight. In the "engine" there were holes through which a light was shining, and from where sparks were flying backwards. The first part of the spark looked like an electric welding light-arch. A smaller jet divided itself from the flying jet, when the phenomenon was very close to the observers. In the end phase faint sparks could be seen at the front part of the object. The speed was estimated equal to that of a slowly flying jet plane and the flight altitude, to 500-700 meters. The phenomenon disappeared in the eastern direction behind the tree tops. The sight lasted about 10 minutes.

- Here we have an exact description together with a drawing, of the s.c. Baltic bolide, which when it for the very first time appeared attracted great attention. Involved in the sighting are also typical estimation faults. Classification: 3.

1978

FLYING OBJECT AT KUOPIO

Kuopio, Kelloniemi, December 2, 1978 at 2.00 p.m. 1 observer. A man, 43. saw in the eastern-north-eastern sky an object, which he at first thought to be a gliding plane. In the center part of the object there was a dark spot resembling a dome. It attracted his interest. The object swung to the right in its flight and momentarily disappeared among the clouds. Then it again came into sight, but this time at a higher altitude than before and went out of sight again at a high speed, disappearing behind the corner of a balcony. Time of observation: 10 seconds. The object was of a bright metallic structure with distinct outer contours. No sound could be heard. A week later the observer telephoned Rissala airport asking whether at this time, there had been any airplanes in flight. According to the answer there had been none, neither had there been anything special of interest on the airport's radar screen.

- The observation is indefinite, however as based on the drawings, the object has obviously been an airplane. Classification: 3.

1979

LIGHT PHENOMENON AT HANKO

Hanko, Bengtskär, August 1979, 8.00-9.00 p.m. 2 observers. Two men observed during a fishing trip a bright point of light at an estimated height of 30 degrees in the northern sky, moving at an even speed. Time of observation was 2-3 minutes, during which it went for some time behind a cloud, appeared again in the continuation of the straight flight line and then disappeared permanently behind the cloud.

- The observation remains indefinite because of the scarcity of details. Possible explanations are a.o. a satellite or an airplane using its landing lights.

1980

LIGHT IN THE SKY OF KARSTULA

Karstula, Vastinki, August 18, 1980, about 10.00-10.10 p.m. 1 observer. A man sighted a light in the sky, which flew at a higher speed than an airplane. To begin with the object was in the west, in the middle of the observation in the north and at the end in the east, after which it disappeared behind the horizon. Observation time about 1,5 minutes. The air was clear and calm.

- A typical light phenomenon with sparse data. Based upon the observation details it could have been a meteor. Classification: 2.

STRANGE EVENTS AT VARPASALO IN RÄÄKKYLÄ

The following is an extract of the observer's letter:
"It occurred on August 21, 1980. The air was clear with a starlit sky, the temperature about 10° C. At 10.00 p.m. I was returning home with my

father-in-law from the town. I parked the car in the garage and we started to walk the few steps towards our cottage. I walked ahead of my father-in-law, he was about 5 meters behind me. Suddenly a very bright light with an interval of about a second, flashed twice behind my back. I thought it was a flash of summer lightning, and also said to my father-in-law that this flash of summer lightning indeed was a bright one. To this my father-in-law replied that it had not been any flash of summer lightning at all, but the thing there in the air at a distance of 5-6 meters from us and hovering 3-4 meters above the ground had a ball-like flashing bright light. All this had happened so quickly that he had not been able to observe more exactly what it really had been. We remained waiting there some five minutes more, in case the phenomenon should show up again, however, nothing was seen nor heard. Around the site of observation grow some 4-8 meter-high trees and the light had been seen coming from among these trees. In the darkness of the evening we could not make any other observations. Since the sky was clear, the phenomenon hardly could have been any flash of summer lightning. There are no electric wires or electricity poles very close to the site where the event occurred. The event was gradually forgotten, until December 29, 1981 dawned.

6.00 a.m. my mother-in-law went to the cow-barn and I followed her and neither of us observed anything strange. 6.15-6.50 a.m. my father-in-law was still in bed but awake. He then saw behind the window, 2-3 meters above the ground and at a distance of 2-4 meters from the window, hovering in the air, exactly the same phenomenon, which he had seen 21.8 in the evening. Even now no sound was heard, and in the darkness of the morning night he could not observe anything but the two successive flashes of dazzling light. This now happened at the other end of our court yard than the event in August. The air in the morning was clear and the temperature 15-20 degrees C below freezing and the sky was cloudless.

This time the electric wires and the electricity pole were situated quite close to the phenomenon. 7.30 a.m. I was about to finish my machine milking of the cows. During 15 minutes there were 4-5 circuit breaks of 0,5-2 seconds duration and also between these some kind of weakening of the electric current, whereat the light in the lamps alternately dimmed and shone up brightly. This phenomenon seemingly also influenced the engine of the milking machine, because its sound changed. When entering the cottage I asked whether similar electrical disturbances had also occurred there. To my astonishment I heard that nothing of the kind had occurred in the cottage. Thus the disturbances had only affected the electric current in the cow-barn. Had then the earlier light phenomenon and the electric disturbances now something to do with one another? The electric current for our household comes coherently to the electricity pole in the court yard. After this the current is distributed separately to the cow-barn and to the cottage. In the cow-barn the entire electric network was renewed 3 years ago, and no failure has ever been observed in it, neither before nor after the renewal. Even then disturbances in the cow-barn's electric network lasted only 15 minutes. Both times when the aforementioned light phenomenon occurred, the air was nearly calm, thus the wind could not have any share in the event. I did not observe anything strange in the animals' behaviour that morning. Could it in this case have been the question about the s.c. Saint Elmo's fires, or could there really have been UFOs? You see, strange things have also previously been observed in this region."

- The events contain relatively many details, but the darkness prevailing at the moment of the sighting, the momentary flashes and the uncertainty concerning possible connection between the flashes of the sighting in December and the electric disturbances in the winter. In any case the

weather conditions were not the right ones for the possibility of the claspings together of electric wires, the weather was calm so there was no thunderstorm. Efforts are made within the possibilities to get additional data about the events. As such, classification: 2.

LIGHT PHENOMENON AT ESPOO

Espoo, Suvela, Sokinvuori October 28, 1980 between 1.00-2.00 p.m. 1 observer. In the following, an extract from the observers' letter:

"October 26, the first snow had fallen, and some days later I saw from the window of my flat this light phenomenon, which I also photographed with my pocket camera. I live on the sixth floor of a high-house, and from my window I have an open view towards the Finnöö-road. When on October 28 the sun started to shine on the side where my windows are, I saw beside the sun, at a short distance from it, a rainbow-phenomenon. It reminded me of a ball, although its outer fringes were not absolutely distinct. I grabbed my camera and opened the window, but when I started to shoot a picture, all the colours of the rainbow faded to nothing. Nevertheless I took the enclosed picture, as well as the negative (picture no. 7). When I already had shut the window and put the camera away, I happened to look at the sky, and there the object was shining again, now even brighter than before, with all the colours of the rainbow. Now also the ball-shape could be distinctly discerned. I intended to take a new picture of it through the window, but as I started to lift up the venetian blinds, the light phenomenon quickly faded away completely. All I could see was a very pale disk or ball moving away from the position where it had been."

The phenomenon was seen in the western sky, the temperature was slightly below freezing (0° C), the air was clear and the sun was shining. Time of observation 5-10 minutes. The phenomenon was at an estimated height of 30-45 degrees and stationary all the time. Its size was that of the full-moon.

- Based upon the description and the photograph it seems obvious that the object in question was a halo-phenomenon; a sun-dog or by-sun in a position at the right side of the sun. According to the observer's own estimate, the pale object possibly seen at the end of the observation, might have been a hallucination. Classification: 3.

LIGHT PHENOMENON IN THE EASTERN SKY

December 3, 1980 after 8.00 a.m. a column of a fire was observed climbing high towards the space in Northern-Finland. The weather was clear and cloudless. Some people told they had seen a UFO.

- The phenomenon was caused by a meteorological observation rocket launched from Archangelsk in the Soviet Union. These rockets are frequently seen. There's also a photo of the event. Classification: 3.

LIGHT PHENOMENON AT IISALMI

Iisalmi, Pöllösenlahti, December 31, 1980, 11.29 p.m. 1 observer. A man, 42. observed when following the flight of fire-work rockets, a point of light in the clouds, in the south-eastern sky. The light moved in the sky towards northwest with an even speed during 1-2 minutes. It turned

indistinct before reaching the horizon.

- The observation is very sparse in details. The explanation could be that the object was some kind of New year rocket, but owing to the circumstances presented it remains unsolved. Classification: 2.

1981

LIGHT PHENOMENON AT LOIMAA

Loimaa, Vesikoski and Hirvikoski, January 1, 1981 after 10.00 p.m., many observers. A very intensive light phenomenon moved soundlessly from east to west, and could be seen for many minutes. The phenomenon moved at a very low altitude and some of the observers thought it to be an airplane about to land. Turku airport has not received any information about the light phenomenon in question, at the said time.

- The event contains very few data. Based upon the data received the object could have been a meteor or a Soviet rocket. Classification: 2.

STRANGE LIGHT IN THE SKY AT KITILÄ

Kittilä, Könkää village, February 5, 1981. 1 observer. Kittilä-dweller Tapani Eino observed a small object flying over Könkää village in about 5 seconds. Behind the object, an about 3-meter long arrow of light was seen moving. The estimated flight altitude was 50 meters, and the (object) phenomenon caused a strong noise, which could be heard even in the house. The geophysical observatory at Sodankylä has not received any enquiries concerning the case.

- Information received presumes the object having been an air force airplane, these are frequently seen in the region. Classification: 3.

LIGHT PHENOMENON AT HALIKKO

Halikko, Märynummi, March 5, 1981, 6.28 a.m. 2 observers. Two persons en route to work in the morning observed in the south and south-east at an altitude of 20 degrees, a very bright ball of fire. Its size was about half of that of the full moon. The flight orbit was from left to right and slightly descending. Time of observation, about 3 seconds.

- The sighting in question is a typical meteor observation, although this time it has been very much brighter and bigger than usual. One of the two observers has made corresponding observations earlier. The time of observation 6.28 a.m. is pretty exact, maximum deviation +/- 20 seconds. (EK, 14). Classification: 3.

STRANGE LIGHT IN THE SKY OF KUOPIO

The town of Kuopio, March 14, 1981, 10.21 p.m. 2 observers. An amateur astronomer searched the evening sky with his binoculars. He then observed with his bare eyes in the northeast, at an altitude of about 75 degrees an

oval-shaped "dimmed" disk. Its size was about the same as the diameter of the full-moon. It moved slowly and evenly in the direction towards northeast and vanished after 4 minutes behind the horizon. Also the witness's mother saw the object. It was also seen through 20x70 binoculars, however, no further details were discerned.

- The observation contains few details, but it was made by an accurate person. A beam from a searchlight hitting a thin fog or cloud layer could be an explanation, but the disappearance at the horizon does not fit the picture. The case might thus be unexplainable as an extra-paradigm event. (JK). Classification: 1.

STRANGE LIGHT PHENOMENON AT PYHÄSELKÄ

April 26, 1981 after 5.00 p.m., two fishermen who at the said time were on the icecovered lake Pyhäselkä, sighted in the western sky, slightly above the horizon, a strange flashing light phenomenon. The light which was hovering motionless, weakened and brightened in the course of some minutes, until it disappeared. As the object did not change its position, it could hardly have been an airplane reflecting the sunlight. No sound was heard.

- So far there are no other data than the aforementioned available, thus the event might belong to category: 2 (data insufficient).

BRIGHT LIGHT PHENOMENON IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL FINLAND

May 15, 1981 between 0.30-0.50 a.m. a bright light phenomenon was observed over extensive regions mainly in Southern and Central Finland. From the eastern direction, there rose high in the sky a huge fire-throwing light phenomenon, leaving behind it a smoke trail directed east-west. The original light phenomenon could be seen, pending somewhat of the observers' positions, from 3 to 10 minutes, and the smoke trail for many hours. According to some observers the light came from north-north-east straight towards the observers, remaining stationary for a while, thereafter sharply changing direction almost moving back to where it had come from. Many enquiries were received from the public concerning the observation, by at least Pori, Tampere, Joensuu and Kuopio airports.

- There are many eyewitnesses to this event. Although the descriptions of the observation to some degree diverge from one another, the object in question almost certainly was a rocket launched by the Soviet Union from Plesetsky. Classification: 3.

"UFO PHOTO"

July 1, 1981, 6.15 p.m. Helsinki. A black and white picture was shot on the shore. Although nothing special was observed at the moment of shooting, a disk-shaped dark object could be seen in the center of the picture-area. The length axle of the object was horizontal (direction in the negative). In the 123x88 mm photo, the length of the disk was about 3 mm, but no details of it could be discerned.

- When examining the negative with microscope, there appeared around the

disk, a thin dark ring-shaped sector. This ring sector was much sharper than even the sharpest luminosity limits in the negative, thus it could not have been caused by the optics. The explanation therefore is a construction fault of the light keen emulsion of the negative. Classification: 3.

THE PIELINEN EVENT

July 31, 1981, 8.50 p.m. Pielisjärvi. Two men in a motor boat sighted a dark spot in the summernight sky. They also saw four lights, the movements of which were regular and sharp. The men told that they had driven their boat another 300-400 meters, when the lights suddenly appeared right above them. One light started to move towards the men, at which they lost their faculty of motion. In front of the boat a fog screen was formed and the men lost their consciousness.

When they woke up according to their own opinion at once, they were in the boat, but this time differently placed than before. The light and the black spot disappeared in about 15 seconds. To their astonishment the men observed that the time was 04.10 a.m. The boat was drifting on the lake in its previous position, in spite of the hard southerly wind.

After this the men drove the boat ashore and went to their cottage. There their heads started to ache and they felt very sleepy. Their hands trembled nearly two weeks after the event and their sense of balance was also disturbed. At the same time a light phenomenon resembling a meteor was observed at Pielinen. (Source: newspaper Lieksan lehti 12.9 and J. Kyröläinen.)

- The event appears to be rather complicated and the examinations continue.

IMPRESSIONS IN A COURT LAWN

August 9, 1981, Nurmijärvi. In a court-lawn three circular impressions were observed, which obviously had not been there until 6.8. when the lawn was cut. The impressions were at a distance of 1,4 meter from one another, forming an isosceles triangle. They had sharp edges, were 20 cm in diameter and 2,5 cm deep. On the bottom of the impressions the grass was burned black, and the bottom was so dense that the rainwater did not run through it. At the distance of about 2 meters from the triangle grew Siberian-pine trees. One tree grew exactly at the triangle, and this tree began to turn yellow.

- No natural explanation was found regarding the birth of the tracks. Nothing unusual had been seen nor heard at the site of event. (Source: researcher no. 22 letter.) Classification: 2.

LIGHT PHENOMENON AT IISALMI

September 15, 1981, 3.40 and 4.45 a.m. Iisalmi. Light phenomena appeared twice in the north-eastern sky, times of duration several minutes. The lights resembled small moon crescents with red central parts and seemed to move towards the witness, and were slowly ascending. They grew in size taking the shape of an arch and vanished pretty soon. At the first time the "horns" of the moon crescent were upside down, at the second time they were pointing upwards. At the latter observation, there was a glowing bright

light seen on the top of the original light phenomenon. (Source: newspaper Iisalmen Sanomat 16.9)

- Most obvious explanation is the launching of a Soviet space rocket, this was also said in the aforementioned newspaper. The direction of the observation, the duration and the time of the day, as well as the appearance and behaviour of the phenomena point at a rocket observation as a valid explanation. Classification: 3.

LIGHT IN THE SKY OF JOENSUU

September 16, 1981 (date, however, questionable) late in the evening at Joensuu. From the position of Ursa Major a light moved in the northern direction, it could be seen for more than a minute. (Source: newspaper Karjalainen 18.8)

- A satellite is the possible explanation. Classification: 3.

STRANGE MOVEMENT AT KUOPIO

September 18, 1981, 9.00 a.m. Kuopio. The observer staying indoors saw white pieces moving in front of his (her) window but far away from it. Size and distance estimates fail. Duration about half a minute. (Source: observation form)

- The explanation is that there was a fire guard air-foam extinguishing training taking place in the neighbourhood, during which time the wind carried with it parts of the air-foam ball. Classification: 3.

SCINTILLATING LIGHT IN CENTRAL FINLAND

September 29, 1981, 8.20 a.m. Muurame. A pulsating (scintillating) light flew in the southern sky from east to west. Duration a few seconds. (Source: newspaper Keskisuomalainen 30.9)

- The object (phenomenon) was obviously a meteor. Classification: 3.

STRANGE HOLE IN A GRAIN FIELD

September 30, 1981, rural community of Heinola, Kausa village. When harvesting straw on a field with a tractor, a hole was observed in the soil. On the surface of the marshy field there was a circular-shaped hole with sharp edges. The diameter of the hole was about 70 cm. The aperture was sharp-edged with the exclusion of three faintly observable impressions, and at the edges of the hole roots had been sharply cut off. The pit was almost full of water. When a pole was pushed into the hole, you could feel that it hit something hard at the depth of about 4 m, thereafter the pole could still be pushed a few more meters deeper. The direction of the hole was almost exactly vertical.

The geological institution of Helsinki University also showed interest in the matter, since in their opinion the pit (hole) could have been caused by a meteor. Docent Martti Lehtinen was present, when the weekly Seura arranged for the draining of the pit. As the amount of water diminished,

the object suspected to be a meteorite seemed still more indefinite and eventually vanished entirely. At its depth there had been a thin layer of grit, which obviously had been believed to be an object of some kind. The layer of grit was intact, thus no big object could have penetrated it. Not a single piece diverging from the normal was found in the pit. Neither were any residues of a meteor found among the soil samples at the microscopic examination.

The exact moment of the birth of the hole is not known, neither is there any knowledge of any localized sound or light observation in the said region. One of the local citizens said he had heard a sound on 28.9 at about 7.30 hours p.m. Someone else had heard thunder at about 10.00 p.m. and another had heard a sound and seen a light phenomenon on 29.9 at about 10.00 p.m. Docent Lehtinen stated conclusively that the pit remained a mystery so far. (Sources: newspaper Itä-Häme 2.10 and the weekly Seura no. 42 on 16.10. According to the weekly Seura, a pit (hole) of the similar type was also found in a grain field at Mouhijärvi.)

October 11, 1981, 7.20 p.m. a bright smoking and wobbling phenomenon was seen at Kalkku, Tampere. According to information received about the event, the conclusion can be drawn that the phenomenon was caused by a meteor. Classification: 3.

October 12, 1981, Harjavalta. A bright ball of fire was also seen, which disappeared behind the forest. Also this phenomenon was obviously caused by a meteor. Classification: 3.

October 14, 1981 after 1.00 a.m., a bright light phenomenon was seen in Vaala in the northern sky for about 10 minutes. Behind the phenomenon there was a tail. The light phenomenon flashed up three times, after which it changed to glowing red. The phenomenon was caused by a rocket launched in the Soviet Union. Classification: 3.

PROFESSOR NUSIMOVICI'S LECTURE ON UFO'S

Professor Michel Nusimovici visited Cercle Francais, the French Club of Turku, on October 16, 1981. Nusimovici is professor of physics at the University of Rennes and visited Finland as the guest of Finland-France Society and Alliance Francaise. He spoke on the history, the statistics, and the present state of UFO research.

Nusimovici's favourite slogan was: UFO's exist but flying saucers don't. There is life elsewhere, but the chance of getting visitors from outer space is very slim due to interstellar distances. Nusimovici's lecture also covered the work of GEPAN. He stated that 25 % of the cases studied by the organisation remain unsolved. There will never be a time when science would understand the totality of the universe, emphasized professor Nusimovici.

October 18, 1981, 10.20 p.m. At different parts of Ostrobothnia the falling of a bluish meteor lighting up not only the landscape, but also rooms in houses was sighted. Observations were made at least at Oulu, Pyhäjoki, Kalajoki, Niskamäki, Kruunupyy, Himanka and Vaasa. Later on observation reports were also received from a still wider region, from a.o. Sodankylä, Kemi, Röyttä, Tervola, Ähtäri and Lahti. An observation

concerning the sound associated with the phenomenon, a strong explosion was heard at least in Pyhäjoki, Himanka and Kannus. The brightness of the phenomenon had been so intensive that the eyewitnesses without exception had believed the distance of the light phenomenon to be only some ten meters, in some cases 25 meters. According to observations made at Röyttä, the meteor burned out near the surface of the sea.

November 27, 1981, 3.38 p.m. in Northern-Finland the launching of a booster-rocket was seen. Observations were made in at least Kemijärvi, Hautjärvi, Hirvasvaara, Kuusamo, Suomussalmi and Vaala. The observers stated that they had seen a bright ball, from which had moved a bluish tail part pointing towards the ground. Classification: 3.

December 7, 1981, 3.50 p.m. a meteorite observation was made at Vieremä, Hankasalmi, Uurainen and Jyväskylä. A bright greenish ball of fire was seen falling downwards and advancing in the direction of north-northwest. At first observers at Kortepohja in Jyväskylä region thought that the phenomenon had been caused by a Piper-airplane's landing at the airfield, but the many observations, however, exclude such a possibility. Classification: 3.

December 10, 1981 at 8.20 a.m. two men in Piikkiö sighted a bright ball of light above the tree tops. At first they thought it to be the planet Venus, but the ball had moved and passed across above the road where they were standing. The ball disappeared behind the trees.

- The data received about the phenomenon are scarce, thus no definite conclusion can be drawn about the event. Classification: 2.

December 14, 1981, 5.15-6.10 p.m. at Valkeakoski in the region of Ulvajaniemi, a group of four persons followed from the window of a high house, a bright white ball of fire, which slowly advanced, at the same time descending slightly. The ball was seen above the factory funnels of Yhtyneet Paperitehtaat Oy, Ltd. Looked at through a spyglass it appeared as a completely round spot of light of different colours. The phenomenon was observed from time to time, and 6.15 p.m. it could not be seen any more. The report received by the UFO Research of Finland contains sufficient details for identifying the object. This light phenomenon had been caused by the planet Venus, which at the same time was descending behind the horizon. Classification: 3.

The UFO Research of Finland also received another report of a similar event. Two school pupils followed from the window of their flat in Helsinki a bright ball of light advancing slowly and every now and then performing a zig-zag movement. After about 20 minutes the phenomenon disappeared. This event took place sometime in November-December about 4.30 p.m., a definite time was not given.

- Based upon data received the phenomenon concerned was the planet Venus. Classification: 3.

December 16, 1981, 4.30 p.m. a red column of light was observed throughout Finland in the northern sky. As places of observation were mentioned a.o. Rovaniemi, Tervola, Kemi, Jyväskylä, Joensuu, Lieksa, Kontiolahti, Heinävesi and Kuopio. The duration of the phenomenon was about 20 minutes. The phenomenon was obviously caused by a research rocket, which exploded in the near space, whereat it was freed of chemicals, which then ionized and released light. Classification: 3.

December 22, 7.30 a.m. the launching of a booster-rocket from Plesetsky was again observed. Observations were mainly made in Northern-Finland a.o. Inari, Muonio, Sodankylä, Rovaniemi, Kemi, Ranua, Kuusamo, Suomussalmi, Nurmes, Valtimo and Oulu. The phenomenon had the shape of a bright ball of light, followed by a very fast moving bluish and greenish cloud. At Ranua and Oulu, the phenomenon resembled bright Aurora Borealis lights. Classification: 3.

PEKKA TEERIKORPI BECOMES DOCTOR

Pekka Teerikorpi, the co-author of "Ufojen arvoitus" was born in Kotka in 1948 and was active in the Kotka Flying Saucer Club and the Helsinki Interplanetarian Society for several years. Later he worked as assistant in astronomy at the University of Turku.

On December 22, 1981 he presented his doctoral thesis on the Hubble law (Studies on the Hubble Law with Emphasis on Selection Effects and Galactic Absorption) for inspection. Toivo Jaakkola served as the official opponent and professor Mauri Valtonen served as custos.

According to the thesis the Milky Way is falling toward the Virgo group of galaxies at the speed of 400 km per second. In addition to the above Mr. Teerikorpi has solved several old astronomic problems without using shortcuts.